

REWARD THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE WORLD FLYERS

FEBRUARY 17 (calendar day, FEBRUARY 21), 1925.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. BINGHAM, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted
the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 12064]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 12064) to recognize and reward the accomplishment of the world flyers, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

The Committee on Military Affairs of the House of Representatives, in its report on this bill (H. Rept. 1395, 68th Cong.), states:

The world flight of the Army aviators was an accomplishment that marks an epoch in world history. In his annual message to Congress of December 3, 1924, the President said:

"Progress is constantly being made in air navigation and requires encouragement and development. Army aviators have made a successful trip around the world, for which I recommend suitable recognition through provisions for promotion, compensation, and retirement."

This statement was given much publicity, and met with a ready response in the minds of the people of this Nation.

A bill (H. R. 10562) was introduced in the House. The War Department was then asked for an official report, and the following letter was received from the Secretary of War:

Hon. JOHN C. MCKENZIE,
*Acting Chairman Committee on Military Affairs,
House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. MCKENZIE: With reference to the letter of December 12, 1924, from the late Congressman Julius Kahn, chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, House of Representatives, inclosing a copy of H. R. 10562, introduced by Hon. J. P. Hill, Congressman from Maryland, a bill "To recognize and reward the accomplishment of the world flyers," I herewith submit the following report:

In regard to section 1, page 1, it is recommended that lines 4 and 5 be changed by eliminating the words "First Lieutenant" and substituting therefor the word "Captain"; that line 5 be changed by eliminating the words "one hundred and fifty" and substituting therefor the words "one thousand"; that lines 8 and 9 be modified by eliminating the word "seventy-five" and substituting therefor the words "five hundred." Captain Smith was confirmed by the Senate in the grade of captain on December 20, 1924. The other changes are recommended

in order to give a greater measure of immediate advancement to the officers concerned.

It is further recommended that after the word "promotion" in line 9, page 1, the following be added: "*Provided*, That the officers hereinbefore named be and remain extra numbers in their grade, to be carried as extra numbers up to and including the grade of colonel: *Provided further*, That nothing in this act shall operate to interfere with or retard the promotion to which any other officer on the promotion list would be entitled under existing law." This change is recommended in order that no other officers will be adversely affected by the provisions of this act.

It is recommended that this act be modified by changing the words "lineal list for promotion" as they appear in lines 5 and 9, page 1, and line 6, page 2, to read "promotion list." This change is recommended to conform with the designation at present used by the War Department when referring to the list upon which the names of these officers are carried.

In regard to section 2, it is recommended that line 9, page 2, be modified by interpolating between the words "the" and "number" the word "total." This is done in order to avoid any possible conflict between sections 1 and 2.

In regard to section 3, it is recommended that line 13, page 2, be modified by inserting after the word "officers" the words "of the Regular Army and Officers' Reserve Corps." This modification is made in order that the distinguished-service medal may be authorized for all the world flyers.

Although I am not in favor of financial reward for these world flyers, I recommend that additional reward be given them by a provision added to this bill, which would read substantially as follows:

"Sec. 4. Each of the officers of the Regular Army and officers of the Officers' Reserve Corps who may be appointed to commissioned grade in the Regular Army under the provisions of this act, shall be advanced one grade upon retirement; and at any time after the passage of this act, any officer so benefited by the provisions of this act, may, on his own application, be retired by the President at seventy-five per centum of the pay of the rank upon which he is retired."

A precedent for the above recommendation is found in the act of Congress approved March 4, 1915, which rewarded certain officers who participated in the construction of the Panama Canal.

With the exceptions of the recommendations noted above, this legislation has my heartiest approval.

This proposed legislation has been submitted to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, who advises that the proposed legislation is not in conflict with the financial program of the President.

A redraft of H. R. 10562, in accordance with these recommendations, is appended.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN W. WEEKS, *Secretary of War.*

My Dear Mr. McNamara: With reference to the letter of December 12, 1924, from the late Congressman (now chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, House of Representatives) enclosing a copy of H. R. 10562, introduced by Hon. J. P. Hill, Congressman from Maryland a bill "To recognize and reward the accomplishment of the world flyers," I herewith submit the following report. In regard to section 1, page 1, it is recommended that line 4 and 5 be changed by eliminating the words "first lieutenant," and substituting therefor the word "captain"; that line 5 be changed by eliminating the words "one hundred and fifty" and substituting therefor the words "one thousand"; that lines 2 and 3 be modified by eliminating the word "seventy-five" and substituting therefor the word "two hundred." Captain Smith was confirmed by the Senate in the grade of captain on December 20, 1924. The other changes are recommended